BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

An entertainment device for editing an original audio source via recording volume control commands and recording the commands to a hard drive and, more

particularly, a device for mixing audio signals volume control commands from an original source with

secondary audio signals, such as voices or music, and outputting the mixed audio signals for live play and/or recording. The mixed audio signals may be combined With video signals from the original source for output to a T.V. monitor and speakers

Discussion of the Related Art

Most people, at one time or another, have found themselves talking to the television. Fro instance, when watching certain movies, commercials or regular television programming with a group of friends or family members, it is sometimes, amusing to mimic the characters or interject additional dialog, noises and comments. When viewing television sporting events, such as football, basketball or baseball, many fans cannot resist adding their own commentary and opinions, especially after a controversial ruling by the officials or umpires. The spontaneous comments that people make when watching T.V. are sometimes extremely funny and may add to the overall entertainment of watching the program. The viewers may find some impulsive utterances to be so amusing that they replay the original program and attempt to duplicate the humorous expressions. However, the loss of spontaneity makes it difficult to recreate the same level of amusement as was first experienced. And, even though the original program may be recorded by the

viewers, the spontaneous dialog, noises and the utterances are lost.

In other circumstances, a person may wish to repeat the lines of a character in a movie in order to hone their acting skills, such as when rehearsing for a character role. Someone interesting the sports broadcasting may wish to turn down the sound of a televised sporting event to other program and practice their commentary or narrating skills. Unfortunately, the user's verbal interjections cannot be recorded with the video portion of the original program.

Accordingly, there is a need for an electronic device or system which enables one or more people to listen to and/or view an original program while interjecting their own spontaneous utterances, and to produce a recorded product which consists of the original program combined with the user's dialog, noises or other expressions for the purpose of amusement and entertainment with in sync play back.

Objects and Advantages of the Invention

With the foregoing in mind, it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a device or system which allows one or more users to alter the original audio volume portion of the a broadcast or recorded program by recording the volume control commands onto a Hard Drive or alternate storage medium {by}and mixing the user's recorded selected audio with the original audio recorded volume control commands {or by dubbing over the original audio}.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an electronic device or system which receives broadcast or recorded audio signals from an original source and secondary audio signals from a secondary audio source, as selected by the user(s), and wherein the device further includes volume control means for

controlling the volume levels of the original audio signals through recorded volume commands and recording the secondary audio

signals, wherein the original volume commands and secondary audio signals are mixed at the adjusted

volume levels and recorded onto a selected medium, such as a {VHS tape, CD, DVD,}

{or cassette tape.}Hard Drive or Alternate Storage medium

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide an electronic

device or system which can be used by one or more persons for amusement and

entertainment purposes, as a type of game, wherein each person is provided with a

microphone to allow spontaneous interjection of dialog, noises or other utterances

while watching a broadcast or recorded video program on television, and wherein

the utterances of each of the persons are mixed with and synchronized {or dubbed over the original

audio tract of the program} and recorded onto a selected medium for subsequent

playback and amusement. The broad cast may be recorded with the device, and volume commands will also be recorded. The original integrity of the volume from the recorded broadcast will not change, until played back with the device, synchronizing the recorded volume commands with the recorded noises utterances special affects audible or visual as placed by the user or users. However recording broadcasts is not its main function. The device is more geared for using with prerecorded storage medium(DVD Movie From Block Buster) The device leaves the original medium intact.(Not altering its audio or video) unless it is used during in sync play back with the device after a recording session (Named input data for recall)

It is till a further object of the present invention to provide an electronic

entertainment device which allows one or more users to mix their own selected

audio, such as voice dialog, noises, music or the like, with original audio volume control commands of an

original television broadcast program or recorded video program, and wherein the

mixed audio volume control commands and original video is recorded onto a selected medium for subsequent

playback.

It s still a further object of the present invention to provide an electronic

Device or system which allows one or more persons to {record over the original audio Tract of a broadcast or recorded program for entertainment, rehearsal, job

application in the field of broadcasting or other purposes.} use the device for entertainment, rehearsal, job application in the field of broad casting

It is till a further object of the present invention to provide an entertainment

device which provides for means of playing an original recorded video/audio

program on a recorded medium and a second means for recording the original video

portion of the original program with a modified audio volume controlled commands, which are recorded to a Hard Drive or Alternate Storage Medium {track} which may be a

combination of the original audio with the user's selected audio controlled commands or, alternatively,

new audio, selected by the user, dialogue, noises, and utterances which is recorded onto a Hard Drive or Alternate Storage Medium and played back in sync with the volume control commands. The volume control commands are sent to the player side during in sync play back, through named recall data, to command the player where the volume fluctuations are placed during play back, and then sent to TV with the user or users audio dialogue ,noises, and utterances (secondary audio) and volume controlled commands. {dubbed over the original audio track.}

It is yet a further object of the present invention to provide any electronic

device or system which receives broadcast and /or recorded video and audio signals

from an original source and which further connects to microphones, an AM/FM

radio tuner, a cassette tape player, a CD player, A DVD player and a VCR, and

wherein the device is adapted to received audio signals from anyone or a combination

of the connected components for mixing with {or dubbing over the audio of the

original source} and further wherein the device is adapted to record the mixed audio of the user noises utterances etc. and volume control commands and play back in sync

with the video of the original source only the volume commands and users audio utterances noises etc. special affects audible or visual are recorded on a selected medium such as, but not limited

to a {VHS tape, CD or DVD.}Hard Drive or Alternate Storage Medium

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide an

entertainment device or system which received broadcast or recorded audio signals

from an original source and secondary audio signals from on or more connected

components such as an AM/FM radio tuner, a cassette tape player, a CD player, a

DVD player or a VCR, and wherein the device or system is structured to selectively

mix audio from the connected components with the audio recorded volume commands from the original source,

and further wherein the device or system is adapted to record the mixed audio volume commands on an

audio /video storage medium Hard drive or Alternate Storage Medium and {or} combined with the video of the original source {on a}from a video

storage medium.

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide an entertainment

device or system, as set forth above, which is adapted to connect with a camcorder

or other personal video recoding device for editing the audio on an originally

recorded video storage medium, and more particularly for mixing dialogue, music

and/or other noises with the audio volume control commands on the originally recorded video storage medium.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention are more readily

apparent with referenced to the following detail description taken in conjunction with

the accompanying drawings.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed to an entertainment device for combining the audio recorded volume control commands of an original program with audio selected by the user(s), such as spontaneous utterances, dialogue, noises, music or the like or added special affects audible or visible. Example: laugh track or visual explosion. The entertainment device receives broadcast or recorded audio signals from the original source and secondary audio signals from a secondary audio source such as from on or more microphones or from a connected auxiliary component. Controls on the device allow the volume levels of the original audio signals and any of the secondary audio signals to be selectively adjusted. The original audio signals volume commands are recorded onto a hard drive or alternate storage medium and the secondary audio signals are recorded onto a hard drive or alternate storage medium and mixed at the adjusted volume levels and output to a TV. If desired it could be output for recording onto a recording medium, such as a VHS tape, CD, DVD or cassette tape. The mixed original audio volume control command signals and secondary audio signals may be combined with video signals from the original source for recording and/or output to a T.V. monitor and speakers. The device can be used for playing a game, for amusement and entertainment, wherein each player may assume a character role and interject dialogue or add sound effects.

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a fuller understanding of the nature of the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a general schematic view of the electronic entertainment system of the present invention, in accordance the one preferred embodiment

thereof;

Figure 2 is front elevational view showing the device of the present invention in accordance with one preferred embodiment thereof, and illustrating various controls and inputs thereon;

Figure 3 is a rear elevational view of the device of Figure 2 showing various input and output jacks thereon; and

Figure 4 is a general schematic showing the electronic entertainment system in accordance with a second preferred embodiment thereof.

Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to the several drawings, and initially Figures 1-3, a video and audio entertainment system is shown and generally indicated as 10.

As seen in Figure 1, the system 10 includes a audio mixing device 20 which connects to the other components of the system. In a preferred embodiment, as shown in Figure 1, the system 10 is used conjunction with a television 50 when watching either a real time broadcast program via signals received through an antenna, cable, or satellite receiver, or from a recorded medium played on a connected component 70. The broadcast signal, from the antenna/cable/satellite receiver 40 is directed through input cable 42 which connects to the In jack 46 on the rear of the device 20. This signal, which is input into the device 20, includes both original audio and original video from the broadcast program. When the power button on the device 20 is off, the video and audio signals from the broadcast signals pass through device 20 and are output through cable 44 connected to jack 48 and

into the television 50 for real time normal play of the broadcast program. With the device 20 turned "ON", by depressing power button a volume control knob 26 on the device 20 controls the volume level of the audio commands exiting output 48 to the television 50. With the knob 26 turned all the way to the left, the full volume level of the audio signal is output to the television 50 as normal. Turning the knob 26 fully to the right position results in completely creating a command, muting the audio signal portion so that only the original video is displayed on the television 50. Moving the volume control knob 26 between the full left position and full right position controls the volume level command of the original audio signal from the broadcast program between normal and mute prior to output to the television 50 and/or speakers.

The component 70 may be any of a select one or more audio and/or video components such as, but not limited to, a VCR, DVD player, CD player, AM/FM tuner or cassette tape player. The audio signals from the one or more components 70 are fed through input cable 72 and through input jack 74 on the rear of the mixer device 20.

One or ore microphones 80a-80d connect to the mixer device 20 by plugging into the corresponding jacks 82a-82d on the front of the device 20. Using the microphones 80a-80d, one or ore users can interject additional dialogue, utterances, noises or other expressions, while watching and listening to the video program on the television 50. The volume levels of each microphone is controlled by the corresponding knobs 84a-84d, as seen in Figure 2. These secondary audio

signals received through the microphones 80a-80d, are recorded to a hard drive alternate storage medium and mixed with the original

audio (volume control commands) signals of the broadcast program (i.e. from antenna, cable or satellite) or the

recorded program from component 70. The mixed audio signals commands are output from

device 20, at the adjusted levels, from output jack 48, through connecting cable 44 and to the audio system of the television 50. Thus turning the volume control knob

26 all the way to the left will result in the recording of that command onto the hard drive for in sync output, only the original audio portion of the program

{being}will be heard, while turning the knob on the volume control 26 all the way to the

right will result in the recording of the command onto the hard drive, for in sync out put, only the secondary audio, input through microphone or other

connected source, {being}will be heard on the T.V. while watching the video program.

Adjusting the control knob 26 between the fully left and fully right positions results

in a mixture of both the original audio and the secondary audio, so that both the

original audio and the user's input dialogue, noises, utterances, music, etc. are

heard while watching the program on the television 50. The original audio is left intact, only the commands of the volume control, the users dialog special affects audible or visual were recorded for synchronized play back.

A recording component 60 connects to the device to for recording the {video

Program} audio of the user, the commands of the volume control, and or special affects audible or visual with the selectively adjusted mixed audio comprising either one or a

mixture of both the original audio control commands portion and the secondary audio interjected by

the one or more users. The recording device 60 connects through input cable 62 to

input jack 66 on the rear of the device. The original video from the broadcast

program received through antenna/cable/satellite 40, or from the recorded original

program play on component 70, is output from jack 68 through output cable 64 to

the recording component 60, Hard Drive. Likewise, the resultant mixed audio, comprising the

original audio volume control commands and{/or} the secondary audio, is output from jack 68 through cable 64

and to input of recording component 60. The original video is out put to the TV and mixed audio volume control commands are

recorded onto a recording medium{(e.g. a VHS tape, or DVD)} Hard drive or alternate storage medium {in the} recording device

60. Alternatively, the recording device 60 may be of the type adapted for recording

only the audio portion such as a CD player or cassette tape player. In this

instance, only the {mixed}recorded audio is output from device 20 and into the recording

component 60 Hard drive Alternate Storage Medium {for recording on the particular audio recording medium (e.g. CD or

cassette tape).}

With the use of the second video/audio playing component 70, an original

recorded audio/video program ({both} audio volume control commands signals {and video signals)} can be input to

mixing device 20 and mixed with the dialogue, noises, utterances, music and other

expressions input by the users through microphones 80a-80d or another connected

component (e.g. AM/FM tuner, CD player, tape player, etc.), and recorded onto a

select medium in recording device 60. By pushing the auxiliary button 24 on the

front of the machine, the audio signal {or combined audio/video signal} from

component 70 is input into device 20. The volume commands are manipulated along with special affects audible or visual and mixed with the secondary audio signals

from microphones 802a-80d or other components, and then rerouted to recording

component 60 for recoding onto the selected medium. The user's modified recorded

version of volume control commands for in sync play back, of the program including the original audio and/or the user's selected audio,

can then be played back on television 50 for amusement and entertainment.

Referring to Figure 4, another preferred embodiment of the device of the present invention as shown and as indicated as 120. In this particular embodiment, several components are combined into the one device 120, including an audio mixer, an audio or audio/video player 170 and an audio or audio/video player and recorder Hard Drive or Alternate Storage Medium

160. Similar to the system 10 of Figure 1, the device 120 connects to a television and is adapted to receive a broad cast signal via antenna, cable or satellite.. The device 120 may further include multiple audio and/or audio/video play devices such as a VCR, DVD play, CD player, cassette tape player and an AM/FM tuner. It is fully contemplated that all of these audio and/or audio/video components may be incorporated within the device 124 for producing desire secondary audio signals to be mixed with the volume control commands user or users dialog noises utterances, special affects audible or visual {or dubbed over an original audio signal}. The recorder component

160 may be any one or more of various recording devices adapted for recording onto a medium, such as a {cassette tape recorder, DVD recorder, CD recorder or VCR} Hard Drive or Alternate Storage Medium.

Similar to the system 10 of Figure 1, the device 120, as shown in Figure4, allows for input of original video and audio signals from either a broadcast program (e.g. antenna, cable or satellite) or from a recorded medium played in the player component 170. The volume level of the original audio is controlled with main volume control knob 126. The volume control commands are recorded onto a Hard Drive. The secondary audio, to be mixed with the original audio volume control commands,

{or dubbed over the original audio}, may come from any one or more of the additional player components 170 or from an auxiliary device connected to the device 120, or from microphone 80a=80d similar to that described in connection with Figure 1. The microphones 80a-80d plug into jacks 182a-182d on the front of the device 120 and the volume level of each of the microphones is controlled by knobs 184a-184d. Controls 178 are provided for a controlling operation of the player component 170. Additional player components may require additional controls, as appropriate.

In operation, the original audio volume control commands, either from a broadcast signal or from a recorded medium played in player component 170, is mixed with the secondary audio derived from the one or more microphones 80a-80d and/or one or more other audio components (e.g. AM/FM tuner, CD player, DVD player, cassette tape player or VCR). The original audio signals {and} volume control commands that are recorded and secondary audio signals, that are recorded onto a hard drive are mixed at the controlled volume levels, as selected using knobs 126 and 184a-184d, and output to a connected television, speaker or other audio playing device. The mixed audio signals of the user or users and volume control commands {may also be}are recorded on a select medium Hard Drive or Alternate Storage Medium, using player/recorder component 160. Controls 168 are provided for operating the player/recorder component 160.

Upon depressing the record button 169, the {mixed} audio signals of the user or users along with the volume commands and special affects audible or visual are recorded, {either alone or in combination with the original video signal,} on the particular recording medium in the player/recorder component 160. The recorded audio signals volume control commands, {comprising the original audio signals and/or}and the secondary audio signals, can then

be played back in sync from the recorded medium for output to a connected auxiliary component, such as a television or speaker.

One or more remote control units 200 may be provided for controlling operation of any one or more of the system components of the device 120 including the player component 170 and the payer/recorder component 160, as well as the volume controls 126 and 184a-184d and naming data and recall of named data

In one preferred embodiment of the invention, a method of use of the device involves playing a type of game wherein at least one player, and preferably several players, take on a role of a character and/or background noise in an original program (e.g. movie or TV show) being played on the television. Each player is provided with a microphone and, when their character appears on the television, the player interjects their own choice of dialogue or sound effects which may be mixed on synchronized out put to TV with the character's original lines {or dubbed-over} to replace the original

audio volume. The mixed or {dubbed-over audio} recorded audio of the user, volume commands, Special Affects audible or visual is recorded onto a Hard Drive {with the}and mixed with the original video and or audio volume control commands, and

played back in sync for amusement.

While the instant invention has been shown and described in accordance with preferred and practical embodiments thereof, it is recognized that departures from the instant disclosure are contemplated with a spirit and scope of the present invention and are not intended to be limited except as set forth in the following claims as interpreted under the doctrine of equivalents.

Overview of invention

The Video Libber (Art Unit 2615) Complies with all copy right laws pertaining to copy right recorded art. This is accomplished by the following.

The Video Libber (Art Unit 2615) is a device or program that is comprised of or allows storage medium for audio, from interjected dialogue, from a user or users via microphones (Player or Players).

A device or program that is comprised of or allows a storage medium for the recording of commands.(Moving a volume control up and down during a recording session or adding special affects audible or visual) These commands are electronically recorded into a hard drive or alternate storage medium, from the users manipulations of the built in DVD Player's (or alternate storage medium) volume control (which is playing a movie) Remember the user, or users can manipulate the volume controls during a recording session. The affects (audible or video) may be a feature that is part of the device or program. (Built in or inserted medium: Laugh track or visual affect Example: Fake Visual Explosion) This can also be manipulated during a recording session.

During a recording session, the dialogue and commands are stored into a hard drive or alternate storage medium, and given a session name. The commands given to the volume control (audio) on the player side (Movie Side) are recorded in real time along with the user's dialogue, during the recording session. The affects commands are like wise. The name that is given to the session is imperative to the operation and entertainment value of the session. When the session name is recalled, and play operation is activated, along with the DVD (Movie) that it was originally recorded with, the Video Libber (Art Unit 2615) plays back the recorded audio of the user or users from the hard drive, synchronizing it with the video (movie) exactly where the dialogue was recorded during the movie.

The commands (Manipulation of the volume control and or special affects control) that were recorded and utilized during the recording session, is also synchronized with the dialogue from the user or users and the movie. Volume on the DVD Player Side (Movie) will fluctuate up and down depending on the commands given during the recording session when played back.

The only thing The Video Libber (Art unit 2615) recorded was dialogue from the user or users, and the volume control manipulations and or special affects control (audible or visual) commands.

The volume control commands that were recorded on the hard drive, are sent to the player side during play back(named recall operation), and synchronized with the movie, and recorded special effects (audible or video), and the recorded user's dialogue, however it was placed during the recording session.

The special affects, (audible or visual), that were recorded on the hard drive during the recording session, are synchronized with the (Movie) and the dialogue of the user or users, where ever they were placed during the recording session and are replayed from the recording session's named recall, during play back operation.

The Video Libber (Art Unit 2615) is connected to a Television or monitor for play back and for recording sessions.

Summery of Invention

1.) A device or program that allows and or records audio via storage medium from a player or players VIA a microphone or microphones.
2.) A device or program that allows and or records electronic commands via storage medium from the manipulation of a volume control knob or special affects knob, pod, (audible or visual) etc.
3.) A device or program that plays DVD's or (alternate video storage medium) (Movies)
4.) A device or program that accepts and recalls named input data. A device that accepts video signals or broad cast signals for recording video
5.) A device or program that synchronizes the above listed data (1-4) during named recall play back operation.
6.) A preferred embodiment or program that encapsulates claims 1-5
7.) A device or program that is utilized in concert with a television or visual monitor.